



PROJECT INFORMATION PACK

WHITE SHARK

Marine
Conservation &
community
Field Trip



AFRICA

GLOBAL reach. ADVENTURE for all. PROJECTS to inspire.

AFRICA

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Our conservation work
in more detail

ABOUT WHITE SHARK PROJECTS

AFRICA

White Shark Projects

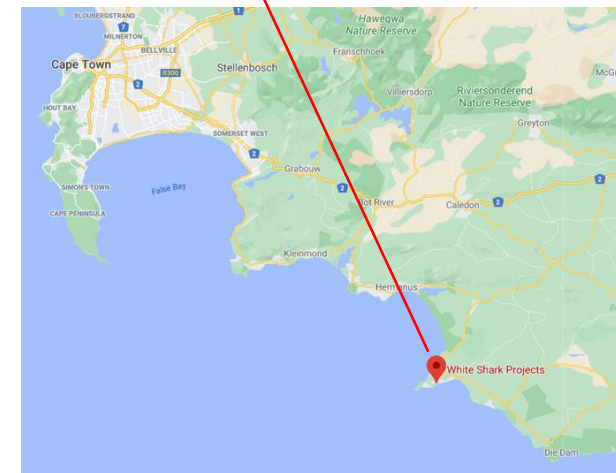
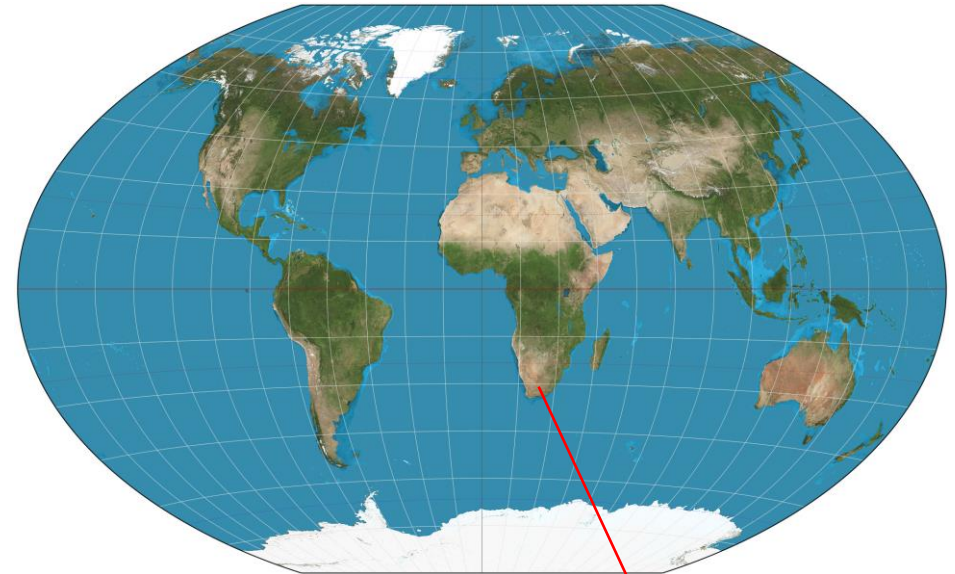
White Shark Projects is a world leading organisation founded in 1989 purely as a research centre and has now broadened its reach by establishing a commercial arm and by funding a non-profit organisation, the South African Shark Conservancy.

The project is dedicated to the exploration and conservation of the world's greatest predators, the white shark and all other shark species in its environment.

The project works with students, eco-tourists, conservation organisations and marine resource users (subsistence fishermen, sport divers and dive operators) to gather data on shark species, correct negative misconceptions about sharks and stop the needless slaughter of over 100 million sharks annually.

Unsustainable fishing practices, dorsal fin poaching and environmental degradation compounded by a relatively slow great white breeding cycle are all factors contributing to the potential demise of this amazing creature.

Current programmes involve eco-tourism, public education, community conservation and empowerment and environmental advocacy as well as various social upliftment programmes.



ANY QUESTIONS?

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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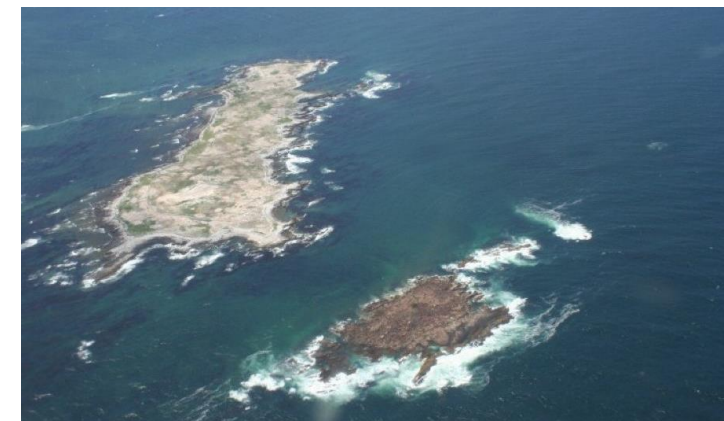
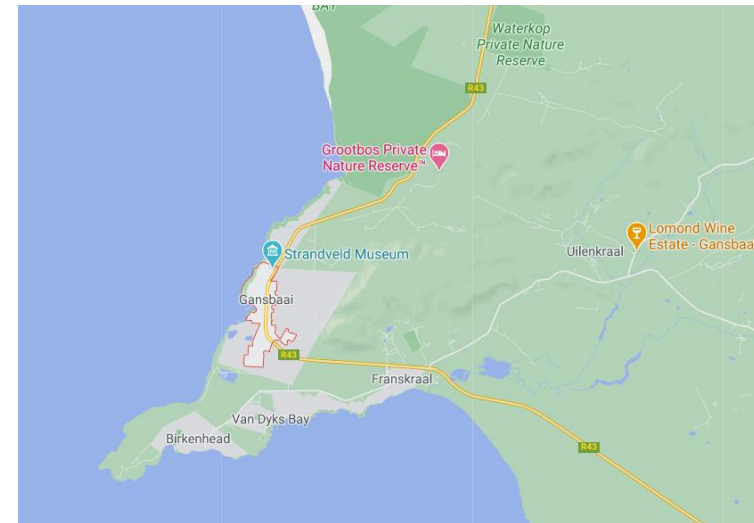
Location

The project is based at Kleinbaai which is located just outside Gansbaai, South Africa; a seaside village approximately two hours southeast of Cape Town on the Atlantic Ocean coast.

Shark trips primarily take place off Dyer and Geyser Islands which are located approximately 6 nautical miles off shore. Dyer Island is a breeding ground for the African penguin, Cape cormorants and the Cape gannet while Geyser Island is a breeding ground for the Afro-Australian Fur Seal (Cape fur seal) with approximately 60,000 locally.

The boats anchor in the deep channel between the islands, this channel is called "Shark Alley" and is a magnet for many shark species including the copper shark, the broadnose sevengill shark and the elusive migratory white shark due to the breeding colony of fur seals; this is a great area for cage diving as the islands, reefs and huge kelp beds all provide protection from the sea swell and wind.

The cage diving location is subject to change depending on the weather conditions and the shark location.



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Your programme

On arrival on the 1st or 15th of every month you will receive a full induction into the programme and meet the team you will be working with on land and out at sea.

Trips out to sea on the commercial shark vessel are weather dependent but the aim is for a minimum of 4 trips out to sea on the group programme, one of which will be exclusive, just the volunteers and crew on the boat.

You will be taught how to collect data on free-swimming sharks, at sea you will focus on working with the sharks from above and below the water. Cage divers are responsible for recording observations on all sharks including species, sex, size, markings and behaviour.

Lectures will include basic shark biology and ecology, shark behaviours, research projects and conservation initiatives, local Cape fur seal and whale behaviour; depending on the season you may be lucky enough to see southern right whales which migrate to the area to mate and calve.



Your Programme – ‘shark days’

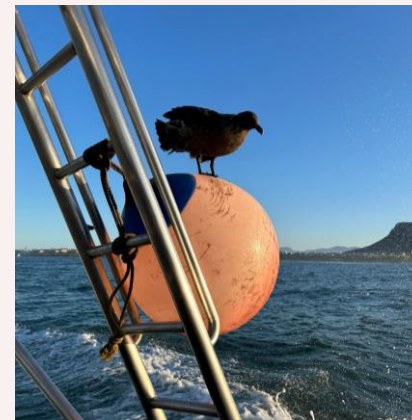
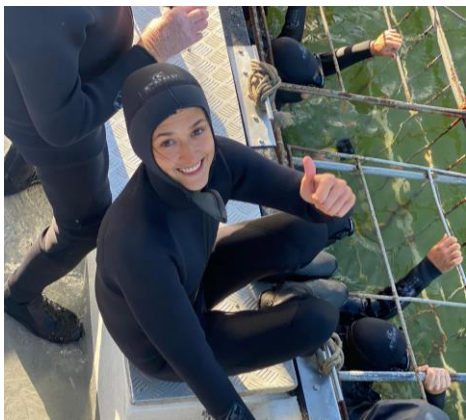
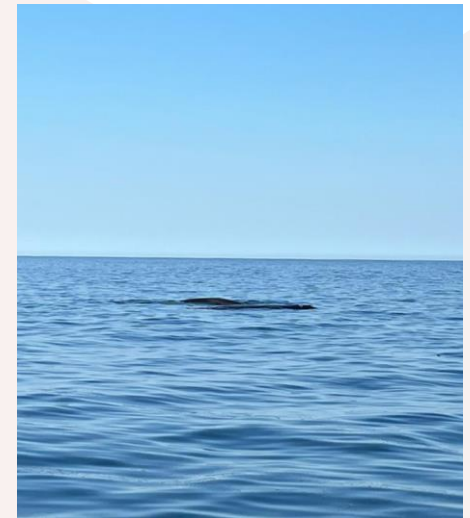
Training will be given on how to monitor sharks and on working on the shark cage diving vessel. The duties you undertake may change from day to day however you will always be working in conjunction with a qualified crew member from White Shark Projects.

- ❖ Boat and cage preparation pre- and post-trip
- ❖ Equipment check – diving equipment, bait, food etc.
- ❖ Preparation and distribution of wet suits for clients
- ❖ Assist with anchoring, cast off
- ❖ Constant shark spotting to assist crew, clients and fellow volunteers
- ❖ Data recording & weekly collation of all data
- ❖ Post trip boat clean
- ❖ Clean and tidy away wet suits post trip
- ❖ Client assistance as required
- ❖ Provide information to clients and generally interact with them
- ❖ Write for the project’s blog & share pictures for social media
- ❖ Assist at the recycle swop shop one day per week (contributions are always welcome)
- ❖ Trip to South African Shark Conservancy with possible small species shark dissection and talk by the founder
- ❖ Lectures from the project’s marine biologist

ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Life at sea....or on land



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Your programme – ‘No Sea Days’

On the days you are unable to go to sea due to weather or sea conditions alternative excursions or activities may be arranged; you will alternate between staying in the local area, data entering, lectures and watching appropriate documentaries or choose optional activities

Local activities include:

- ❖ Rock pool and coastal walks and cave visits to identify species found in and around the rockpools and to collect and identify shark egg cases
- ❖ Coastal litter clean ups – undertaken regularly
- ❖ Shark capture-mark-recapture –
 - ❖ On land – fishing from the Klenbaai harbour to ID, record and tag small sharks (during the day and after dark)
 - ❖ In sea – snorkelling in kelp forest at De Kelders to catch, ID and tag small sharks (held in shallow caved areas)
- ❖ Shore based whale watching during the southern right whale season (June – November) locally at De Kelders or Hermanus
- ❖ Weekly visit to BARC, local animal shelter. Walk and socialise the dogs giving and receiving much needed love and attention
- ❖ Visit the local African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary

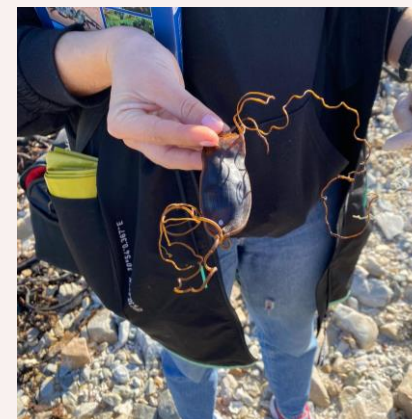
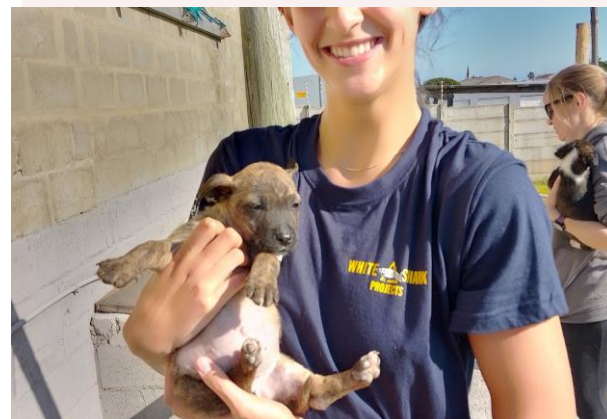
Optional activities:

- ❖ Boat based whale watching in season (June – November)
- ❖ Panthera Africa big cat sanctuary
- ❖ Cape Agulhas & Struisbaai (southernmost point of Africa)
- ❖ Betty's Bay and visiting the African penguin colony
- ❖ Wine and beer tasting
- ❖ Visit to the South African Shark Conservancy
- ❖ SCUBA diving for those qualified in the local kelp forests
- ❖ Big 5 game drive

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ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

Life at White Shark
Projects

ACCOMMODATION AND LIFESTYLE

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Accommodation

The accommodation is at the volunteer house, located two minutes from the harbour and the main project office. It is in dorm rooms with shared bathroom facilities, there is a comfortable lounge with TV, nice kitchen, dining area and a garden with entertainment/braai area.

Couples, friends or families volunteering together may reserve a double room at an additional cost.

There are lockers available to store your valuables.



Food

The accommodation includes a large kitchen to cook all your own meals. Basic breakfast items are provided but you can visit the Gansbaai supermarket or the local shop nearby. Volunteers normally buy provisions and prepare meals together; the house is located in a very safe area where you can walk freely around anytime of the day or night.

Kleinbaai is renowned for its sharks – not its night life! It can be a little quiet but generally after working together as a team the group enjoy socialising during their leisure time.

There is wireless internet access at the house and good mobile phone reception in the area.





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USEFUL INFORMATION

Inclusions/Exclusions &
Recommended Kit List

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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What is included?

- ❖ Flights
- ❖ Airport meet/greet
- ❖ Transfers to/from project
- ❖ Accommodation
- ❖ Basic breakfast provision
- ❖ All activities as part of the project
- ❖ All transport for activities included within the programme
- ❖ 24/7 In country support
- ❖ Wet suits and snorkel equipment

NOT Included

- ❖ Personal Travel Insurance *
- ❖ Meals
- ❖ Any activities not specified as part of the project
- ❖ Visa's/travel documents
- ❖ Water shoes – needed for most water-based activities (not cage diving)

* We recommend you take out insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed

Suggested kit list

- ❖ Short sleeve shirts
- ❖ Long work trousers and shorts
(Or work trousers with zip-off longs)
- ❖ T shirts – long and short sleeve
- ❖ Waterproof shoes/crocs – **essential**
- ❖ Waterproofs – jacket & trousers
- ❖ Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- ❖ Padded parka jacket/windbreaker – warm
- ❖ Daypack rucksack
- ❖ Socks
- ❖ Warm Hat (winter) /Hat for sun protection (all year round)
- ❖ Working gloves
- ❖ Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- ❖ Underwear
- ❖ Sandals / comfy shoes to wear after work hours

- ❖ Beach towel
- ❖ Swimming costume/trunks
- ❖ Toiletries
- ❖ insect repellent
- ❖ Sunscreen
- ❖ Polarised sunglasses

Other useful items:

- ❖ Personal medical items
(including seasickness tablets)
- ❖ Binoculars
- ❖ Good torch
- ❖ Water bottle
- ❖ Camera
- ❖ Spare batteries
- ❖ Cards/books/music
- ❖ Notebook/diary and pen



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